Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 282 asked by Sri A. Appu at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 29th July 1952, page 603 supra.]

(*a*) The reasons for the slow progress in the construction of the Kuttipuram bridge across the "Bharathapuzha" in Malabar;

(*b*) whether the contractor's work was found to be unsatisfactory and if so, what steps have been taken against him;

(*c*) how long has been the work on this bridge construction going on and when is it expected to be completed; and

(*d*) what is the estimated cost of the bridge and how much has been spent so far?

A.—(*a*) It was originally expected that the total of depth of all wells to be sunk for foundation of the bridge would be 1,390 running feet, but in actual execution, as rock was not met with at the levels shown in the drawings, wells had to be sunk much deeper than originally estimated, and the total depth of wells actually sunk was 2,682 running feet. As sinking works to such low depths was necessarily a slow operation, and the contractors had not also the necessary equipment at the initial stage to tackle deep well-sinking, there was delay in the execution of the work. Further, the river carries floods frequently and the working season for foundation work is limited to seven months in the year. The contractors were not also doing satisfactory work.

(*b*) Yes. The contractors' work was found to be unsatisfactory and they were penalized to the extent of Rs. 3,000. They are now showing satisfactory progress in the execution of the work.

(*c*) The work was entrusted to the contractors on 28th January 1949 and it is expected to be completed in all respects by March 1954.

(*d*) The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 18·5 lakhs. The expenditure incurred on the work so far is Rs. 12·26 lakhs.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS